



# BUCKLE UP INDIANA

## IT'S THE LAW!

**Every Person in All Vehicles at All Times**  
**Effective July 1, 2007**

*Regular Seat Belt Use is the Single Most Effective Way  
to Reduce Fatalities in Motor Vehicle Crashes*

### What does the new law entail?

House Act No. 1237 states that each occupant of a motor vehicle equipped with a safety belt shall have a safety belt properly fastened about the occupant's body at all times when the vehicle is in forward motion. The safety belt must be standard equipment installed by the manufacturer.

Previously, those with vehicles registered and plated as trucks and backseat passengers over the age of 16 were exempt from wearing a seat belt. Under the new seat belt law, all occupants of a passenger motor vehicle must be properly fastened by the vehicle's seat belts.

### Did you know?

- In 2006, 393 people (approximately 60 percent) killed in motor vehicle crashes involving cars, SUV's, vans, and pickups, were improperly or unrestrained at the time of their crash.
- In 2006, in Indiana, 95 percent of those injured who were properly restrained sustained only minor or non-incapacitating injuries.
- Nationally in 2005, 77 percent of passenger vehicle occupants who survived devastating crashes were buckled up.
- When worn correctly, seat belts have proven to reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat (car) passenger occupants by 45 percent—and by 60 percent to occupants of pickup trucks, SUV's and mini-vans.
- Nearly one in five Americans (or 19 percent) still fail to regularly wear their seat belts when driving or riding in a motor vehicle.

